

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

DPW-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EUR-25 RSR-01 INRE-00 /120 W
----- 117010

P R 051126 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9703

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5722

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT MR II DAILY SITREP APRIL 5, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON APR 5 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 363

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR II DAILY SIT REP, APRIL 5

1. SUMMARY: ENEMY ACTIVITY EXECPTIONALLY LIGHT. CHEO REO ICCS
MOUNTS FIRST FIELD INVESTIGATION. CONTRABAND SCANDAL ERUPTS IN
BINH THUAN.

2. MILITARY SITUATION: MR EXECPTIONALLY QUIET THIS PERIOD, WITH
TOTAL OF ONLY SEVEN VC- INITIATED ACTIONS AND THREE MINE
INCIDENTS REPORTED. FIVE INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN BINH DINH AND
ONE EACH IN PHU YEN, KHANH HOA, PLEIKU AND KONTUM. CASUALTIES:
VC: EIGHT KIA; RVNAF: SIX WIA, AND THREE CIVILIAN WOODCUTTERS
WOUNDED AND ONE KILLED BY VC MINE IN PHU YEN.

3. COMMUNIST ATTACK ON HQ OF 62 ND RANGER BATTALION IN THANH AN
DISTRICT, PLEIKU, ON NIGHT OF APRIL 3 (SAIGON 5623, APRIL 4 SIT
REP) RESULTED IN ONE RANGER KIA AND 12 WIA AND FORCED WITHDRAWAL
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OF HQ GROUP TO POSITION TWO KMS EAST OF FORMER SITE.

4. PLEIKU POLOFF SAYS PROVINCE STILL HAS NO WORD FROM SAIGON ON RELEASE DATE FOR 410 ARVN PW'S (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN WESTERN PLEIKU SECOND WEEK OF FEB). NATIONAL POLICE AGENTS REPORT THAT VC ARE MEANWHILE PROPAGANDIZING THE PRISONERS, TELLING THEM THAT GVN DOES NOT WANT THEM BACK.

5. ICCS: CHEO REO TEAM SET OFF BY HELICOPTER MORNING OF APRIL 5 ON FIRST FIELD INVESTIGATION. TEAM IS TO VISIT SITE OF ALLEGED MARCH 10 VC ROCKETING IN THUAN MAN DISTRICT, PHU BON, THEN INTERVIEW SEVEN WITNESSES, FOUR OF WHOM STILL LIE IN HOSPITAL.

6. HUNGARIAN LIEUTENANT FROM BAN ME THUOT MADE ROAD TRIP TO NINH HOA (VICE PHAN RANG AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY) ON APRIL 4 AND RETURNED SAME AFTERNOON WITHOUT INCIDENT. HE VISITED COMPATRIOTS ON NINH HOA TEAM, HAD SWIM IN SEA, AND WAS DELIGHTED WITH WHOLE VENTURE.

7. MINOR INCIDENT OCCURRED IN BAO LOC APRIL 2, WHICH WE ARE REPORTING PRINCIPALLY IN EVENT THAT EXAGGERATED VERSIONS REACH SAIGON. UNIDENTIFIED PERSON FIRED OFF A ROUND THAT RICOCHETED INSIDE UNOCCUPIED ICCS JEEP SOMEWHERE NEAR ICCS QUARTERS OR OFFICES; NEAREST BYSTANDER WAS HUNGDEL TEAM CHIEF FOR WEEK. NO CASUALTIES AND NO APPARENT HOSTILE MOTIVATION; SHOT BELIEVED FIRED BY ACCIDENT OR THROUGH CARELESSNESS. INCIDENT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO REGION IV ICCS HQ, ALTHOUGH NO ONE IN BAO LOC ATTACHES MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO IT.

8. GVN REORGANIZATION: DISCOVERY OF CONTRABAND MERCHANDISE AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN BINH THUAN RESULTED APRIL 3 IN RELIEF FROM OFFICE AND DETENTION OF TUY PHONG DISTRICT CHIEF, MAJOR NGUYEN THANH XUAN. SIX OTHER PERSONS WERE ARRESTED ALONG WITH XUAN; THEY INCLUDE A SUB-SECTOR OFFICER AND THREE EM. JOINT POLICE/ CUSTOMS/ MSS INVESTIGATIONS STILL CONTINUING, BUT INITIAL FINDINGS INDICATE SMUGGLED GOODS, MAINLY CIGARETTES, WERE UNLOADED FROM SHIP OF UNKNOWN PROVENANCE (POSSIBLY HONG KONG) OFF OEY PHONG COAF NIGHT OF MARCH 29, THEN TRANSPORTED IN ARVN TRUCKS TO PHAN THIET AND SONG MAO. INTERCEPTION OF CIGARETTES BY AUTHORITIES IN NINH THUAN PROVINCE APPARENTLY LED TBSDISCOVERY OF BINH THUAN SMUGGLING OPERATION; SEVEN CASES WERE ALSO FOUND IN TUY PHONG CHURCH, WHOSE RECTOR CLAIMED HE WAS KEEPING SMOKES FOR PUBLIC BURNING. ADDITIONAL ARRESTS EXPECTED, FOR PROVINCE AUTHORITIES
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ESTIMATE THAT AS MANY AS 50 PEOPLE MAY BE IMPLICATED. NO WORD YET ON REPLACEMENT FOR MAJOR XUAN; QFDC OF PHAN LY UNDERSTOOD TO BE ACTING CONCURRENTLY AS TUY PHONC DCM

9. POLITICAL ORGANIZING: NHA TRANG INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE CHIEF TOLD POLOFF, WITH CONSIDERABLE ACRIMONY, THAT HE SEES NO HOPE FOR REVITALIZATION OF NATIONALIST POLITICAL PARTIES UNDER THIEU REGIME. HE SAID RECENT LOCAL CLAMOR ON BEHALF OF DEMOCRACY PARTY IS ONLY A FORCED AND MEANINGLESS ECHO OF GVN BREAST-BEATING IN SAIGON AND DOES NOT REFLECT POPULAR ASPIRATIONS IN THE LEAST. HE DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY THAT FREEDOM PARTY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE WOULD EMERGE AS EFFECTUAL POLITPQAL ORGANS BECAUSE OF WHAT HE CALLED "REPRESSIVE GVN ATTITUDE" TOWARD ANY ORGANIZED OPPOSITION. SERVICE CHIEF ALSO CLAIMED THAT VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS ARE ONLY REMAINING FORCES IN SVN CAPABLE OF EFFECTING CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE.

10. DEMOCRACY PARTY OFFICE IN BAN ME THUOT NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN THE J534,99, (ALTHOUGH IT STILL LACKS FURNITURE), AND CHAIRMAN OF DARLAC PROVINCE CHAPTER SAYS HE WILL SOON ASSEMBLE HIS PROVINCE AND VILLAGES COMMITTEES FOR DISCUSSIONS BASED ON THIEU'S SPEECHES BEFORE DP NATIONAL MEETING IN SAIGON LAST WEEK.

11. AN QUANG ACTIVITIES: FIVE-DAY RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION CONCLUDES TODAY IN DALAT. BESIDES ANNUAL CEREMONIES IN REMEMBRANCE OF DEAD SURROUNDING FIRST DAY OF THIRD LUNAR MONTH, AN QUANG-AFFILIATED LINH SON PAGODA ORGANIZED-- FOR FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS-- A SPECIAL PROGRAM COMMEMORATING WAR DEAD. SPECIALLY-QUALIFIED MONKS AND A RELIGIOUS MUSICAL GROUP WERE INVITED FROM HUE. CLIMAX CAME NIGHT OF APRIL 4 WHEN HUNDREDS OF BUDDHIST FOLLOWERS GATHERED FOR SOLEMN CEREMONY AT WHICH NAMES OF MORE THAN 600 WAR VICTIMS WERE READ. CEREMONY WAS STRICTLY RELIGIOUS, BUT DALAT POLOFF BELIEVES IT MAY IMPLY BUDDHIST CONVICTION THAT WAR IS OVER AND THAT AN ERA OF PEACE HAS BEGUN.

ENGLE
WHITEHOUSE

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